

*Members of Congress hear testimony from Attorney General Lisa Madigan, higher education experts, and students*

CHICAGO – Today, U.S. Representatives Mike Quigley (IL-05), Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), and Senator Dick Durbin (IL) held a congressional field forum to explore the impact of the growing student loan debt on families and the economy.

The forum was hosted by Rep. Quigley in the Chicago City Council chambers, where the Illinois lawmakers heard testimony from a diverse panel of higher education experts, consumer protection advocates, and students affected by escalating debt. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan also provided perspective on for-profit colleges and the debt issues some of those schools have created for students.

“We have a vital interest in keeping the costs of higher education affordable for anyone who wants to pursue it. Not only is it the right thing to do for students, but this skyrocketing debt is having a significantly negative social and economic impact,” **said Rep. Quigley**. “The sad fact is that while college is supposed to be a route out of poverty and the key to personal success, the opposite is often truer.”



[co-authored an opinion piece with Sen. Durbin on the predatory nature of money for profit](#)